





AM I  
GOING  
TO GET  
ENTRENCHED  
THERE,  
TOO?

AN  
INESCAPABLE  
JOB-  
HUNTING  
HELL!



WANDERING  
AWLLESSLY  
FROM ONE  
JOB INTERVIEW  
TO ANOTHER  
IN MEDIUM  
AND SMALL  
BUSINESSES.

STUDENTS  
WHO CAN'T  
GET AN  
UNOFFICIAL  
JOB TRIAL  
POSITION WILL  
DEFINITELY  
FALL INTO  
JOB-HUNTING  
HELL.

WHEN THOSE FAIL, YOU GO TO INTERVIEWS WITH MEDIUM AND SMALL CORPORATIONS IN THE SUMMER. AND WHEN THOSE FAIL, YOU HOPE TO GET HIRED IN AUTUMN.

AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU WILL HAVE DONE INTERVIEWS AT MAJOR COMPANIES FROM WINTER OF YOUR THIRD YEAR TO SPRING OF YOUR FOURTH.

...YOU'LL BE WEARING A RECRUITING SUIT, EVERY SINGLE DAY.

SO ALL YEAR ROUND FROM WINTER TO AUTUMN...

NO!  
I DON'T  
WANT TO  
WEAR THESE  
SUITS TILL  
SUMMER!

IF THAT  
ISN'T HELL,  
WHAT IS?







PRINTING PHARMACEUTICAL PACKAGES CONSISTS OF MANY PRODUCTS AND SMALL QUANTITIES, SO MAJOR COMPANIES DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED. THAT'S WHY ASAHI PRINTING'S SHARE OF THE MARKET IS OVERWHELMING.

THE STRENGTH OF THAT COMPANY IS THAT THEY EXCLUSIVELY PRINT PACKAGES OF PHARMACEUTICAL ITEMS.



FURTHERMORE, THEY ARE DESIGN CONSULTANTS, THEY PROOFREAD INGREDIENTS, AND SO ON; THEIR SERVICES ARE THOROUGHLY ACCOMMODATING.

PHARMACEUTICAL ITEM BOXES HAVE MANY MINUTE DETAILS ABOUT INGREDIENTS, RISKS, AND SO ON. THOSE REQUIRE SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR OTHER COMPANIES TO ENTER THE MARKET.



YUNKEL IS ANOTHER CLIENT, SO IF YOU GO TO DRUG AND CONVENIENCE STORES, YOU'LL SEE A LOT OF WORK BY ASAHI PRINTING.

IT'S SAID THAT CHOCOLA BB SOLD WELL BECAUSE THEY LET ASAHI PRINTING WORK ON THE PACKAGING.

THEY'VE GOT A BUSINESS TO BUSINESS DYNAMIC.

THEY'RE NOT WELL KNOWN, BUT THEY'RE AN OUTSTANDING CHAMPION OF BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS.

THAT'S WHEN CORPORATIONS ARE IN MUTUAL-COOPERATION.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS?

FOR EXAMPLE, JAPAN HAS OVER 50,000 COMPANIES THAT HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR OVER 100 YEARS.

GOOD POINTS. BUT IT'S NOT JUST BUSINESS TO BUSINESS COMPANIES. THERE ARE PLENTY BUSINESSES IN THE WORLD THAT ARE OUTSTANDING, AND YET UNHEARD OF.

AND 90% ARE MEDIUM OR SMALL COMPANIES UNDER 300 EMPLOYEES.

50,000 OF THEM?

AND 3,466  
OF THOSE  
COMPANIES  
ARE JAPANESE  
BUSINESSES!  
THOSE NUMBERS  
ARE UNSEEN IN  
OTHER PARTS OF  
THE WORLD, AND  
MOST OF THEM  
ARE UNKNOWN  
MEDIUM AND  
SMALL  
COMPANIES.

THERE  
ARE 5,586  
COMPANIES  
IN THE  
WORLD THAT  
ARE OVER  
200 YEARS  
OLD.

THEY'VE  
EVEN BEEN  
HEARD TO SAY:  
"THAT'S ENOUGH  
OF TOYOTA,  
SHOW US THE  
BUSINESSES  
THAT HAVE BEEN  
GOING FOR A  
FEW HUNDRED  
YEARS."

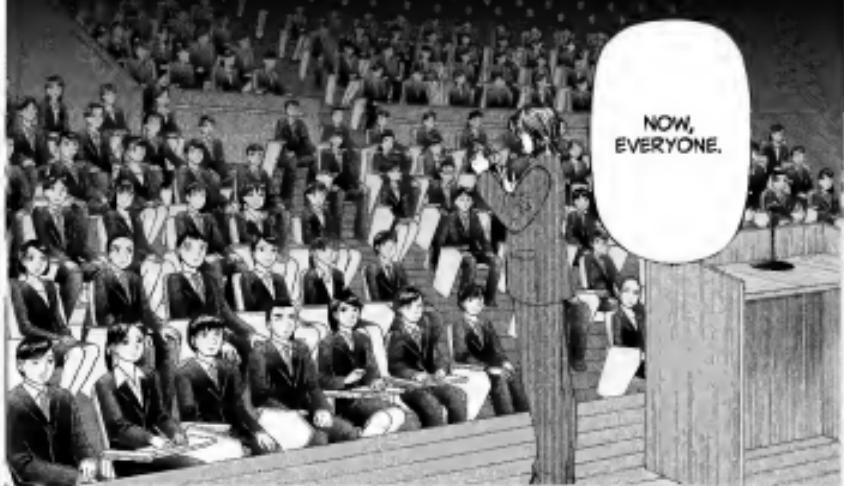
THE  
CHINESE  
HAVE  
STARTED  
COMING TO  
OBSERVE  
JAPAN.

...BUT  
IT'S THE  
OUTSTANDING  
MEDIUM AND  
SMALL  
COMPANIES LIKE  
ASAHI PRINTING  
THAT SUPPORT  
JAPAN'S  
ECONOMY.

MOST PEOPLE  
ONLY KNOW  
THE MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS  
THAT ADVERTISE  
ON TV...

FOR  
EXAMPLE,  
WHEN YOU  
GO JOB-  
HUNTING.

IT'S  
ESSENTIAL TO  
KNOW ABOUT  
BUSINESSES  
LIKE THAT...  
IT MIGHT EVEN  
BE YOUR OWN  
LOSS NOT  
TO KNOW  
ABOUT THEM.



NOW,  
EVERYONE.



HURRY  
UP AND  
TELL US.





WHAT? BUT  
HE SAID TO  
GO TO MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS  
FIRST.



EVERYONE'S  
FIRST HOPE IS  
FOR A JOB  
AT A MAJOR  
CORPORATION.



THAT'S  
BECAUSE YOU  
HAVEN'T GOTTEN  
THE PRELIMINARIES  
DOWN FOR  
JOB-HUNTING.  
YOU'RE NOT  
ACCUSTOMED TO  
INTERVIEWS. YOU  
CAN'T COMMUNICATE  
WELL WITH ADULTS...  
YOU DON'T HAVE  
THE FOUNDATIONS,  
SO OF COURSE  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO FAIL.

HOWEVER,  
IT'S A BIG  
MISTAKE  
TO GO  
JOB-HUNTING  
AT MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS  
RIGHT OFF  
THE BAT.

PRACTICE FIRST,  
AND THEN  
PROCEED  
WHEN YOU'RE  
STRONG  
ENOUGH.

IN OTHER WORDS,  
IF YOU WANT TO  
INTERVIEW  
WITH MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS...

INTERVIEWS  
AT MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS  
WOULD BE TOO HIGH  
A HURDLE  
WITHOUT ANY  
EXPERIENCE.

I SEE...  
THAT  
DOES  
MAKE  
SENSE.

GOING  
OUT JOB-  
HUNTING  
IS LIKE  
CLIMBING A  
MOUNTAIN.

TO EXPLAIN  
IT IN A  
SIMPLE  
METAPHOR...

THE MORE  
YOU DO IT,  
THE MORE  
POLISHED  
YOUR SKILLS  
WILL GET, AND  
EVENTUALLY,  
YOU'LL BE  
PREPARED TO  
INTERVIEW AT  
MAJOR COR-  
PORATIONS.

SO BEFORE  
YOU GO HIT  
UP THE MAJOR  
CORPORATIONS,  
THINK OF IT AS  
PRACTICE AND  
GO INTERVIEW  
AT MEDIUM  
AND SMALL  
BUSINESSES,  
ONE AFTER  
ANOTHER.



IF YOUR BODY ISN'T ACCUSTOMED TO THOSE HEIGHTS, YOU'LL LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS RIGHT AWAY, AND IT'LL BE A FAILURE.

BUT MANY STUDENTS THINK JOB-HUNTING IS LIKE RIDING A HELICOPTER TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.



YOU SHOULD CLIMB TO MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAIN, GET YOUR BODY ACCUSTOMED TO THAT OXYGEN INTAKE, AND THEN YOU'RE READY TO HEAD TO THE SUMMIT.

TO CONQUER A MOUNTAIN, YOU MUST FIRST ADJUST TO THE ALTITUDE.



THE GOLDEN PATH.

THOSE ARE THE BASICS OF SUCCESSFUL MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.



YOU CAN AVOID THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO OF FALLING INTO HELL.

LET'S SAY YOU FAIL AT LARGE CORPORATIONS, AND THEN YOU GO ON TO INTERVIEW AT MEDIUM AND SMALL BUSINESSES. AT THAT POINT, YOU'VE GOT EXPERIENCE TO DRAW ON, AND YOU CAN SUFFICIENTLY SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'VE GOT.



THIS MAKES SENSE!

I SEE...



EVEN IF YOU DO ALL THAT, IT DOESN'T GUARANTEE YOU'LL GET HIRED.

UM... BUT...



YOU COULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE: "I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR COMPANY, AND I'M EAGER TO MEET WITH YOU."

YOU CAN CALL THEM ON THE PHONE AND ASK THEM DIRECTLY.



YOU  
TALK AS IF  
YOU'VE ALREADY  
BEEN OFFERED  
AN UNOFFICIAL  
POSITION BY  
A LARGE  
CORPORATION.  
ISN'T THAT  
JUST DANDY.



I  
WOULDN'T  
WANT TO  
GO TO  
MEDIUM  
OR SMALL  
BUSINESSES  
FIRST!

BUT  
I CAN'T  
TELL THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN  
MEDIUM AND  
SMALL  
BUSINESSES!



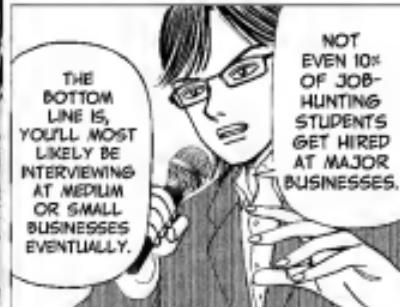
I THINK  
IT'S SLIMY  
TO GO  
INTERVIEW  
AT MEDIUM  
OR SMALL  
BUSINESSES  
JUST TO  
PRACTICE!



NOW  
LISTEN  
TO ME,  
EVERYONE...



THE  
BOTTOM  
LINE IS,  
YOU'LL MOST  
LIKELY BE  
INTERVIEWING  
AT MEDIUM  
OR SMALL  
BUSINESSES  
EVENTUALLY.



NOT  
EVEN 10%  
OF JOB-  
HUNTING  
STUDENTS  
GET HIRED  
AT MAJOR  
BUSINESSES.

OH...



WHY  
DON'T  
YOU BUY  
STOCKS?

I'VE  
GOT  
AN IDEA  
FOR  
YOU.

YOU MAKE  
DECISIONS TO  
INVEST OR NOT  
INVEST BY  
THOROUGHLY  
INVESTIGATING  
AS MUCH AS  
POSSIBLE  
ABOUT  
COMPANIES.

IF YOU  
BOUGHT  
STOCKS, I  
THINK IT WOULD  
BE VERY USEFUL  
IN HELPING  
YOU RESEARCH  
BUSINESSES.

...PUT UP  
CAPITAL.

TO  
INVEST  
IS TO...

THAT'S  
WHAT  
NORI-CHAN  
WAS  
SAYING...



THIS IS AN  
INVESTMENT  
OF YOUR  
LIFE!

YOU'RE  
PUTTING UP  
THE CAPITAL  
CALLED  
"YOURSELF"  
INTO A  
BUSINESS,  
AND YOU  
YIELD A  
RETURN.

YOU MUST  
DO SO WITH  
ALL YOUR  
HEART!

IN THAT  
CASE, IT'S ONLY  
NATURAL TO  
THOROUGHLY  
INVESTIGATE  
WHERE YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
INVEST!

SO  
STOP  
JOB-  
HUNTING  
RIGHT  
NOW!

ANY SLACKER  
WHO SAYS THEY  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT THEY'RE  
INVESTING IN IS  
NOT QUALIFIED  
TO INVEST.



YOU GET  
TO SEE  
THEIR TRUE  
WORTH.

A PERSON'S  
PERSONALITY  
BECOMES  
APPARENT  
BY HOW THEY  
INVESTIGATE  
PLACES TO  
INVEST.



...OR WILL  
YOU CHOOSE  
AN ENTIRELY  
DIFFERENT WAY?  
THAT'S WHERE  
THE KEY TO  
SUCCESS OR  
FAILURE LIES  
HIDDEN.

WILL YOU  
BE SHEEP  
AND DO  
THE SAME  
THING  
OTHERS  
DO...



HOW YOU  
INVESTIGATE..

ENTIRELY  
DIFFERENT  
WAY...





EVEN IF  
I FAIL  
AND LOSE  
IT ALL,  
I WON'T  
REGRET  
IT.



I'LL  
USE THE  
200,000 YEN  
I'VE SAVED  
UP FOR THE  
GRADUATION  
TRIP.



AND IF I  
SUCCEED IN  
GETTING  
HIRED, I'LL  
GET THE  
MONEY BACK  
ANYWAY.



SHOULD  
I ASK  
NORI-CHAN?

BUT.. HOW  
DO I BUY  
STOCKS?



I WANT  
TO FIGURE  
THIS  
OUT FOR  
MYSELF!

BUT  
I DON'T  
WANT TO  
GIVE  
HER THE  
SATISFA-  
CTION.



IS  
THAT RUN  
BY THE  
AOYAMA  
CLOTHING  
STORE?

THE SUIT COMPANY

"THE SUIT  
COMPANY"...

THE SUIT COMPANY

THE

W

IS THE  
PLACE  
CALLED  
AOYAMA?

AND  
AOYAMA...

SUIT COMPANY

CLOTHING  
AOYAMA

I HAD  
NO IDEA  
AT ALL...

I SEE...



WHEN  
STUDENTS AND  
YOUNG ADULTS  
BUY SUITS,  
THEY GO TO  
THE SUIT  
COMPANY  
INSTEAD OF  
AOYAMA'S.



...HAD  
SUCH A  
STRONG  
HOLD  
ON THAT  
MARKET.



TRYING  
TO CROSS  
THE PACIFIC  
OCEAN ON A  
ROWBOAT,  
WITHOUT ANY  
PREPARATIONS.

WHAT  
I WAS  
DOING  
WAS AKA  
TO...



AND  
THEN I  
WOULD  
HAVE DIED  
FOR  
SURE!

I MIGHT  
HAVE  
GOTTEN  
CAPSIZED  
AT ANY  
TIME...





I THINK  
IT WOULD  
BE VERY  
USEFUL IN  
HELPING  
YOU  
RESEARCH  
BUSINESSES.

JOB-  
HUNTING  
IS AN  
INVESTMENT  
OF YOUR  
LIFE.

AN  
INVESTMENT  
OF MY LIFE!

JOB-  
HUNTING  
IS...

THEN I'LL BE  
PREPARED TO  
COMMIT TO A  
DECISION!

IN ORDER  
TO MAKE THAT  
INVESTMENT,  
I MUST FIRST  
RESEARCH  
METICULOUSLY.







WHAT  
THE MASTER  
TOLD ME  
TO DO...



KEEP  
A DETAILED  
CHECK ON THAT  
BOY, WHATEVER  
HE DOES AND  
DOESN'T DO.  
REPORT TO ME  
ABOUT EVERY  
SINGLE THING.

ZAIKEN  
TAKASHI



I WANT  
YOU TO  
LOOK INTO  
HIS FAMILY,  
AS WELL.

YES,  
SIR.



THERE MUST  
BE SOME DEEP  
REASON  
BEHIND IT.



CLEARLY  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
SERIOUS  
GOING ON.  
WHY IS THE  
MASTER SO  
INTERESTED  
IN ZAIKEN-  
KUN?





THEY ARE  
A TREASURY  
OF  
BUSINESS-  
TO-  
BUSINESS  
RELATION-  
SHIPS.

SCIENTIFIC  
BUSINESSES  
HAVE AN  
INCREDIBLE  
NUMBER OF  
CONNECTIONS  
TO OTHER  
INDUSTRIES,  
WITHIN A VAST  
RANGE.

...AND  
EARN AN  
AMAZING  
RETURN!  
JUST  
WATCH!

I'M  
GOING TO  
RESEARCH  
THOROUGHLY,  
INVEST IN  
TONS OF  
THEM...

LOOKING  
FORWARD  
TO IT.

I  
SEE...







MY SISTER IS  
SUSPENSE  
ENERGIZED  
AND  
RESEARCHING  
INDUSTRIES.



MAYBE SHE  
LISTENED TO  
MY ADVICE  
AND BOUGHT  
STOCKS  
WITHOUT  
TELLING ME.



ROYAL  
HOST  
MANAGES  
THE TENYA  
FRAN-  
CHISE.

HOSHINO  
COFFEE  
HAS BEEN  
POPULAR  
FOR ITS  
PANCAKES  
LATELY,  
AND THE  
COMPANY IS  
RUN BY  
DOLITOR.



THEY EVEN  
MANAGE  
RICHMOND  
HOTELS!

Richmond Hotels

THEY  
MANAGE FAMILY  
RESTAURANTS,  
THEY'RE IN THE  
FAST-SERVICE  
AREAS AT  
AIRPORTS, THEY'RE  
INVOLVED IN  
CONTRACTING  
BUSINESS  
FOR FOOD  
ESTABLISHMENTS,  
THEY MAKE  
AIRLINE  
FOODS...

I'M  
LEARNING  
ALL KINDS OF  
THINGS ABOUT  
DIFFERENT  
BUSINESSES.  
THIS IS REALLY  
GOOD!

THIS  
RESEARCH  
IS FUN.

I'M  
BUYING  
ROYAL  
HOST!

I'LL THINK  
OF MY 200,000  
YEN SAVINGS AS  
PAYMENT FOR  
A SEMINAR.

ALL  
RIGHT...  
I'M  
GOING  
TO BE  
BRAVE  
AND BUY  
STOCKS.

1,422 Yen

Comparison with yesterday: 1,391 Yen  
Price in currency: 1,422  
Minimum amount: 100 yen

ROYAL  
HOST:  
I CAN  
AFFORD  
THIS  
ONE.



MEDIA FACTORY IS A HIGHLY-RATED COMPANY THAT'S BEEN SUCCESSFUL ALL THIS TIME.

WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS?

ACCORDING TO THE ECONOMICS NEWS, RECRUIT HAS SOLD ITS SUBSIDIARY MEDIA FACTORY.

OH, NABE-SAN.

WHY WOULD RECRUIT DO THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WHY WOULD THEY SELL IT?

YEAH... THEY'RE THE BIGGEST INFO SERVICE COMPANY IN ALL OF JAPAN.

RECRUIT... THEY'RE THE ONES RUNNING ALL THOSE COMMERCIALS ON TV.

BUT WHY THEN WOULD THEY SELL A LUCRATIVE SUBSIDIARY? MAYBE THEY'RE NOT DOING AS WELL AS WE THINK.

THE MAIN COMPANY HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY GROWING, AND THEIR STOCK PRICE IS ON A SOLID INCLINE.









...AND SO YOU'RE BUYING? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?!

THEY SOLD A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS TO ANOTHER COMPANY...

RECRUIT'S MAIN BUSINESS IS STEADILY ON THE RISE...

LISTEN, ZAIZEN!

THEY MUST'VE DECIDED TO SELL IT AT A HIGH PRICE WHILE THEY COULD BECAUSE THEY'RE EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL SETBACKS!

...BUT THEY STILL SOLD OFF THEIR SUBSIDIARY.







Representative of Recruit

Q

Following

Sun Tzu says: "If you know them and know yourself, you will not be imperiled in a hundred battles."

[+ Reply](#) [★ Favorite](#)[--- More](#)

WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF RECRUIT WENT TO THE TOP, HE PLEDGED THESE WORDS OF SUN TZU TO HIMSELF...



IF YOU HAVE SOLID KNOWLEDGE OF THEM BOTH, YOU CAN'T LOSE.

WITH RESPECT TO THE ECONOMY, THE ENEMY IS THE MARKET AND THE SELF IS ONE'S OWN COMPANY.





WHEN THE COMPANY GREW BIG AND THEIR BUSINESS TOOK ON MANY FACETS, THEY EXTENDED INTO DIRECTIONS BEYOND THEIR ORIGINAL SPHERE, INCLUDING ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA.

BUT MEDIA FACTORY'S MAIN BUSINESS IS PUBLICATION.



IN THE PROCESS, HE DECIDED TO SELL MEDIA FACTORY.

THIS NEW PRESIDENT TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAN UP THE BUSINESS, AND DISTINGUISHED WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO, AND WHAT NOT TO DO.



THAT DECISION WAS WHAT HE EXPRESSED IN THE TWEET THREE MONTHS AGO!

THAT WAY, THEY CAN SPECIALIZE IN FIELDS WHERE THEY OVERWHELMINGLY DOMINATE OTHER COMPANIES.

HOW CAN YOU  
INFERR ALL THAT  
FROM ONE  
TWEET?

BUT  
WAIT...

I SEE...  
ZAIKEN'S  
EXPLANATION IS  
CONVINCING.

JAPANESE  
MANAGERS  
DON'T TALK  
MUCH TO  
BEGIN WITH,  
AND WHEN  
THEY DO  
USE SOCIAL  
NETWORKING  
MEDIA, THEY  
DO IT ONLY  
FOR PUBLIC  
PROMOS.

ACTUALLY,  
WHEN YOU  
LOOK AT THIS  
PRESIDENT'S  
TWEET, IT'S  
UNUSUAL.

IT'S  
POSSIBLE  
TO SELL A  
SUBSIDIARY  
IN THREE  
MONTH'S  
TIME. THIS  
PRESIDENT'S  
PROACTIVE  
POWER IS  
CLEARLY  
EVIDENT.

AND  
THAT  
WAS  
THREE  
MONTHS  
AGO.

IT  
SEEMS HE'S  
DEFINITELY  
GOT  
SOMETHING  
UP HIS  
SLEEVE.

INSTEAD,  
HE SPOKE  
HIS MIND BY  
QUOTING  
SUN TSU.

YOU  
MEAN I  
SHOULDN'T  
SELL?

—NABE-  
SAN...

WHICH  
MEANS...

IT'LL  
DEFINITELY  
DROP IN  
VALUE  
TOMORROW  
MORNING.

THAT'S  
TRUE.

NO,  
THAT'S  
NOT  
IT!

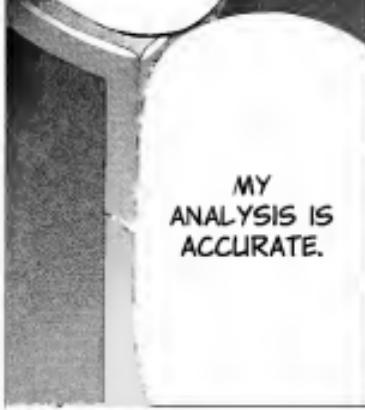
ONCE  
PEOPLE SEE  
THERE'S NO  
INSTABILITY IN  
THEIR MAIN  
BUSINESS, AND  
FIGURE OUT  
THE REAL  
REASON  
WHY THEY  
SELL...

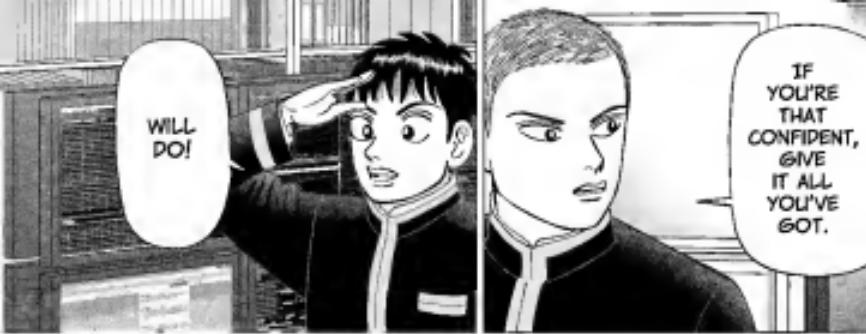
...THE  
VALUE  
WILL RISE  
IN SIX  
MONTHS.

SELL,  
THEN BUY  
AGAIN AT  
A LOW  
PRICE.

I'LL  
MAKE A  
LOT TOO,  
SO IT'S  
HOORAH  
FOR US  
BOTH!

AND THEN,  
NABE-SAN,  
YOU'LL  
YIELD A  
HIGHER  
PROFIT  
THAN EVER  
BEFORE.









CAN YOU HAVE A WORD WITH HIM?

BUT HE WON'T LISTEN.

KAMISHIRO IS PERFECT IN ACADEMICS AND SPORTS. HE'S THE SUPERMAN OF POJUKU.

I ONLY WON BECAUSE IT WAS A ONE-SET MATCH. IF I HAD PLAYED YOU FOR REAL, I WOULD'VE LOST.

YAYASHI-KUN.

SO I TOLD HIM NOT TO FRET ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.

THAT'S RIGHT. BUT WHY DID YOU MISS A LOT?

WELL... IT WAS BECAUSE I MISSED A LOT.

BUT... THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT I LOST.

HAVE YOU REFLECTED ON THE REASON WHY YOU LOST?

THEN...



TRIED  
TO DO...  
EVERYTHING?

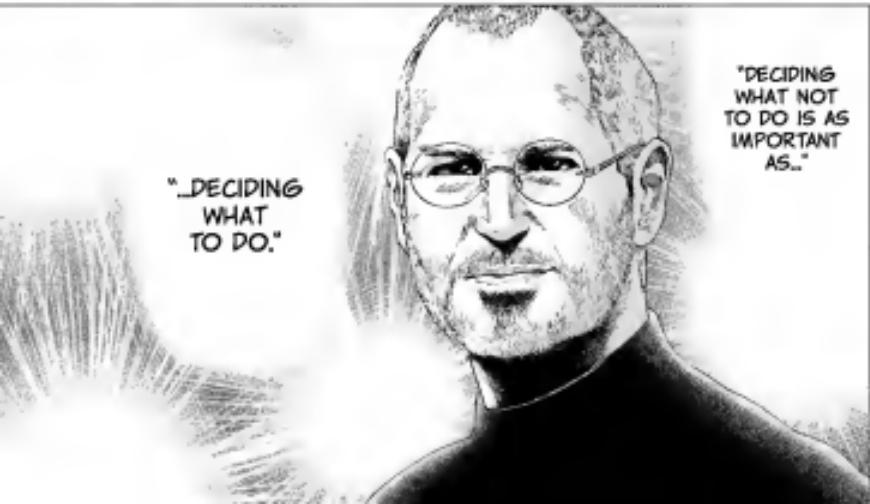
BECAUSE  
YOU TRIED  
TO DO  
EVERYTHING.



STEVE  
JOBS?



THE LATE  
STEVE  
JOBS  
SAID THIS  
ONCE...



"DECIDING  
WHAT  
TO DO."

"DECIDING  
WHAT NOT  
TO DO IS AS  
IMPORTANT  
AS..."



THAT'S WHY  
THE REVERSE  
RESULT  
HAPPENED:  
YOU BECAME A  
HALF-BAKED,  
WEAK PLAYER IN  
COMPETITION.

IN TERMS  
OF TENNIS,  
YOU TRIED  
TO BECOME  
GOOD AT  
EVERYTHING:  
SERVING,  
RECEIVING,  
FORWARD,  
BACKHAND...

...YOU  
WILL NEVER  
LOSE THE  
GAME, AND  
YOU WILL  
NEVER  
COMPROMISE.

BUT  
IF YOU  
FOCUS  
ON JUST  
ONE  
THING...

I'M  
GOING TO  
CONTINUE  
LEARNING  
TENNIS.  
I'LL DO  
MY BEST.

I SEE  
NOW.

...THAT  
SHOULD  
BE  
ENOUGH.  
DON'T  
YOU  
THINK?

AS  
LONG AS  
YOU ARE  
RESOLUTE  
IN ONE  
THING...







WE LIVE  
IN AN OLD  
WOOD-BUILT  
APARTMENT,  
TWO ROOMS  
THE SIZE OF  
270 X  
360 CM.

MY MOM  
IS JUST A  
REGULAR  
WOMAN,  
WORKING  
PART-TIME.

COMPARED  
TO YOUR  
HOUSE,  
MIYUKI-  
CHAN.

NO,  
IT'S  
NOT.

IT'S SO  
EMBAR-  
RASSING.

LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST.

SAKURA-CHAN'S MOM IS JOINING US TOO, SO IT'S GOING TO BE FUN.

YOU'LL BE RICH IN THE FUTURE. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU LIVE NOW.



class  
17<sup>th</sup>  
fl<sup>o</sup>  
→

I HOPE YOU VIEW IT THAT WAY.

THANKS FOR HAVING US OVER!

WELCOME!

THANK  
YOU FOR  
HAVING  
US  
OVER.

PLEASE  
COME IN.  
IT'S A  
LITTLE  
CRAMPED,  
BUT...

I'M  
MACHIDA.

I'M  
FUJITA.

UM...  
THESE ARE  
FUJITA  
MIYUKI-SAN  
AND  
MACHIDA  
NORIKO-  
SAN.

NICE  
TO MEET  
YOU.

AND I'M  
SAKURA'S  
MOTHER.



WE'VE BEEN  
TALKING ABOUT  
RESEARCHING  
BUSINESSES  
WITH RESPECT  
TO A CHECKLIST  
ABOUT WOMEN.

I  
WANTED  
MY MOM  
TO BE  
ABLE  
TO SIT  
IN AND  
LISTEN.

...ARE  
KNOWN AS  
NADESHIKO  
STOCKS.

STOCKS FOR  
BUSINESSES  
THAT HAVE  
ENVIRONMENTS  
WHERE WOMEN  
ARE ACTIVE...

Note: Yamato Nadeshiko: a term for the idealized Japanese woman

...WHEN WE  
INVESTIGATED  
WHAT THAT  
ENTAILED...

BUT...

WHERE  
WOMEN  
ARE  
ACTIVE?

THE  
TOKYO STOCK  
EXCHANGE AND THE  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY,  
TRADE, AND  
INDUSTRY  
SELECTED  
THOSE STOCKS  
BY LOOKING  
AT THE NUMBER  
OF FEMALE  
EMPLOYEES,  
ETC.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.



NO...  
I NEVER  
HAVE,

HAVE  
YOU  
EVER  
MET  
HIM?

I  
THOUGHT  
HE MIGHT  
BE!

THAT'S  
WHAT I  
THOUGHT!

SO THAT'S  
UNDERSTANDABLE.  
YOU KNOW,  
WHEN I WAS A  
STUDENT, I READ  
A LOT OF YOUR  
GRANDFATHER'S  
DISCOURSES.

I HEARD  
HE WAS IN  
CHILE FOR  
A LONG  
TIME.  
HE WAS  
ALSO  
QUITE  
OLD.

S-SURE.

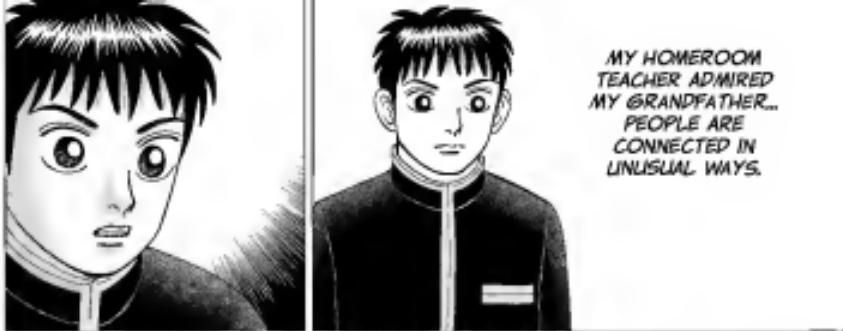
ZAIZEN...  
IT'S  
GOOD  
TO  
KNOW  
YOU.

TH...  
THANK  
YOU

MY  
CONDOL-  
ENCES  
FOR HIS  
PASSING.

IT'S AN  
HONOR.

SO I'M  
NOW THE  
HOMEROOM  
TEACHER  
OF MY  
TEACHER'S  
GRANDSON..





AND THEY ALL SEEM TO BE PLACES THAT ARE EASIER FOR WOMEN TO WORK IN...

THE DOZENS OF NADESHIKO BRANDS THEY SELECTED ARE ALL RISING IN STOCK VALUE...



BECAUSE ONLY 9% OF THE TOTAL EMPLOYEES ARE WOMEN, AND THE LIST EVEN INCLUDES STEEL INDUSTRIES IN WHICH ONLY 1.3% OF WOMEN ARE IN MANAGERIAL POSITIONS.

...BUT IT'S VAGUE WHETHER THEY ARE COMPANIES WHERE WOMEN ARE TRULY ACTIVE.



I HATE TO RAIN ON YOUR PARADE, BUT...



LOOKING AT THIS LIST, THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL WHERE WOMEN ARE REALLY ACTIVE.

IT'S MEANINGLESS BECAUSE THERE'S ONE COMPANY SELECTED FOR EACH INDUSTRY: FOOD, MEDICINE, WHATEVER.









I WANT  
HER TO BUILD  
A SOLID  
FOUNDATION  
SO SHE CAN  
MAKE A  
LIVING, EVEN  
AS A WOMAN  
ALL ALONE.

I DON'T  
WANT MY  
DAUGHTER,  
SAKURA-  
CHAN, TO  
MAKE THE  
SAME  
MISTAKES  
I DID.



ALSO,  
IN ORDER  
TO ATTAIN  
HIGH-LEVEL  
QUALIFICATIONS,  
YOU MUST  
HAVE A SOLID  
EDUCATIONAL  
BACKGROUND.  
THAT'S WHY  
I SENT HER  
TO KEIN.

THE ONLY  
GUARANTEE  
OF HIGH  
SOCIOECONOMIC  
POSITIONS FOR  
WOMEN ARE  
AS DOCTORS,  
BUREAUCRATS,  
AND JUDGES  
IN COURT... NOT  
LAWYERS, ONLY  
JUDGES.



IN THESE  
TIMES, WOMEN  
HAVE TO GRASP  
THEIR OWN  
BRASS RINGS,  
AND CARVE OUT  
THEIR OWN  
PATHS!

WE CAN'T  
EXPECT  
ANYTHING  
FROM THE  
GOVERNMENT  
AND  
SOCIETY.



BUT IT'S  
NOT JUST  
JAPAN.

...JAPAN IS  
A PATRI-  
ARCHAL  
SOCIETY.

WELL...

AMERICA  
HAS THE  
ILLUSION OF  
DYNAMICALLY  
ACTIVE  
WOMEN, BUT  
THAT'S ALL  
IT IS.

IN  
AMERICA'S  
TOP 500  
COMPANIES, ONLY  
4% HAVE  
WOMEN CEOs,  
14% HAVE  
HIGH-LEVEL  
EXECUTIVES,  
AND 17% HAVE  
WOMEN IN  
MANAGERIAL  
POSITIONS.

THAT'S  
ONLY 12%!  
IN TERMS OF  
WOMEN IN  
MANAGERIAL  
POSITIONS,  
OUT OF ALL  
PROGRESSIVE  
COUNTRIES,  
JAPAN IS  
AT ROCK  
BOTTOM.

JAPAN IS  
EVEN MORE  
PATHETIC,  
OUT OF A  
TOTAL OF 41,973  
EMPLOYEES  
IN 3,608 STOCK  
CORPORATIONS,  
ONLY 515 ARE  
WOMEN.

...WHY  
DON'T  
YOU  
EXPRESS  
YOUR  
ANGER  
WITH  
ACTION?

WELL...

WHY IS  
JAPAN  
LIKE  
THAT?

OH, MAN...  
THAT  
MAKES  
ME SO  
MAD...

...YOU NEVER  
PURCHASE  
STOCKS  
MANAGED BY  
MEN ONLY!

FOR  
INSTANCE...

...BUT  
WE'RE  
INVESTORS,  
AREN'T  
WE?

IT MIGHT  
BE ONLY  
A SLIGHT  
WAY OF  
RESISTING...

OH...  
I SEE.





THE HISTORY OF DOJUKU GAKUEN'S INVESTMENT CLUB.

WHAT ARE YOU RESEARCHING?

SO I THOUGHT I'D GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE MEIJI PERIOD AT THE TIME OF THE INVESTMENT CLUB'S INCEPTION, AND DO SOME THOROUGH RESEARCH.

YES, I HEARD THERE WAS SOME MATERIAL FROM THE EARLY SHOWA PERIOD AND THE RESTORATION PERIOD AFTER THE WAR.

IF I  
RESEARCH  
ALL THE  
INVESTMENT  
RECORDS  
HERE...

EVERYTHING  
ABOUT THE  
HISTORY  
OF JAPAN'S  
ECONOMY  
WILL  
BECOME  
CLEAR.



HOW  
DID JAPAN  
SUSTAIN ITS  
ECONOMY?  
I WANT  
TO KNOW  
THE TRUTH  
BEHIND IT.

MEIJI...  
TAISHO...  
SHOWA...  
HEISEI...





"IT IS A  
FAVORABLE  
TIME FOR  
STOCK  
INVESTMENTS  
DUE TO  
ACTIVE  
MILITARY  
DEMANDS."

好機  
株式  
軍事  
日露  
明治  
三十七年  
二月  
十日  
機  
投資  
需要  
露戰  
戰爭  
開  
況  
セリ  
セリ

"37TH  
YEAR OF  
THE MEIJI  
PERIOD.  
FEBRUARY 10.  
THE RUSSO-  
JAPANESE  
WAR HAS  
BEGUN."



...THE  
STUDENT  
WHO WROTE  
THIS WAS THE  
CAPTAIN OF  
THE FIRST  
GENERATION  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB!

THAT  
MEANS...



HE DID MENTION AN UNCLE WHO CAME TO VISIT HIS HOME. HE HAD NO IDEA THAT UNCLE EVEN EXISTED TILL THEN.

OH, YES.

NO.. NOT REALLY.

SOME-  
THING  
UNUSUAL  
ABOUT  
ZAIZEN?

HIS OWN UNCLE?

DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE EXISTED...

WHY DO YOU ASK?

OH, NO REASON. THANKS.

HE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED BY THE SUDDEN, UNANNOUNCED VISIT.

YES, I HEAR IT WAS HIS FATHER'S OLDER BROTHER.

DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF DOJUKU GAKUEN, INVESTMENTS WERE MADE BY SEVERAL CLERKS WHO WERE SENT FROM THE FUJITA CLAN.



THEN THIS PERSON, THE MATH GENIUS, JOINED THEIR RANKS.



"JAPAN COURIER SHIPS: 1,500 SHARES. KANSAI STEEL: 1,300 SHARES. ASANO CEMENT: 1,600 SHARES. KURASHIKI TEXTILES: 500 SHARES. HOKKAIDO HEMP: 1,500 SHARES. JAPAN BEER DISTILLERY: 1,000 SHARES."



THAT WAS THE TIME WHEN THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR BEGAN.



AND THE VERY FIRST INVESTMENTS THE FIRST-GENERATION CAPTAIN MADE WERE:

"BASED  
ON GRADUALLY  
GARNERED  
INFORMATION,  
WHEN THE WAR  
SITUATION  
BECOMES  
FAVORABLE FOR  
PROFIT, WE MUST  
BUY SHARES  
OF JAPAN BEER  
DISTILLERY."

"AT THE  
OUTSET  
OF THE  
WAR, BEER  
EXPENDI-  
TURES WILL  
INCREASE  
GREATLY."

WOW...  
THEY WERE  
ALREADY IN  
BUSINESS AT  
THE TIME OF  
THE RUSSO-  
JAPANESE WAR.

JAPAN  
BEER...  
THAT  
MUST  
BE THE  
PREDECE-  
SOR OF  
SAPPORO  
BEER.

HE SURE  
WAS  
SMART.

HE  
PREDICTED  
THAT BEER  
SALES  
WOULD RISE  
IF NEWS OF  
VICTORY  
AT WAR  
SPREAD.

TODAY'S FAMOUS  
CORPORATIONS  
SUCH AS TOKYO  
GAS, DAINIHON  
PRINTERS,  
TOSHIBA... ALL  
OF THEM HAD  
PREDECESSORS  
DURING THAT  
TIME.

THEN HE  
BOUGHT  
A BUNCH  
AFTER  
THIS.





I BELIEVE  
HE'S FROM  
TOKYO. HE  
WENT FROM  
PREFECTURAL  
JUNIOR TO  
HIGH SCHOOL,  
THEN ON  
TO TOKYO  
UNIVERSITY.

NO.

TOMO-  
KATA-  
SENSEI.

WAS  
ZAIKEN  
KONOSUKE-  
SAN  
FROM  
HOKKAIDO?



I SEE...

OH.. NO  
REASON.



THEN IT  
MUST HAVE  
TO DO WITH  
SOMEONE OF  
AN EARLIER  
GENERATION.

ZAIKEN-  
KUN'S  
GRANDFATHER  
AND UNCLE  
ARE BOTH  
FROM  
TOKYO...





"THE FUJITA CLAN AND I HAVE ANALYZED THE STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR TOGETHER."



"GREAT  
BRITAIN IS RIDING  
THE COATTAILS  
OF THE RUSSO-  
JAPANESE WAR  
AND YIELDING AN  
ENORMOUS PROFIT,  
WHICH IS VERY  
INTELLIGENT AND  
CUNNING OF THEM."

"A  
TELEGRAPH  
WAS SENT  
TO RESIDENT  
OFFICERS IN  
LONDON,  
REGARDING  
PLAN OF  
PURCHASING  
BONDS OF  
BRITISH-POUND  
LOANS..."

WOW...  
THIS MAN  
TRULY WAS  
AMAZING.

I SEE...  
SO IT WAS  
TRUE THAT  
THE RUSSO-  
JAPANESE WAR  
WAS WON BECAUSE  
OF BRITISH  
BACKING

HOW  
OLD  
WAS HE  
WHEN HE  
WROTE  
THIS?

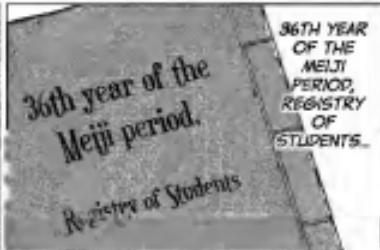
WAIT A  
SECOND...  
HOW OLD  
WAS HE?

50 years of the Meiji  
period (1868-1912)



MAYBE  
A PERSON  
CONNECTED TO  
ZAIKEN-KUN'S  
FAMILY TREE  
EXISTS HERE...

I CAN SEE  
WHO THE  
REGISTERED  
STUDENTS  
WERE IN THE  
FIRST TERM'S  
RECORD OF  
THE 19TH YEAR  
OF THE MEIJI  
PERIOD.





ZAIZEN RYUGORO

HE  
WAS 12  
YEARS  
OLD.

BORN  
IN THE  
24TH  
YEAR OF  
THE MEIJI  
PERIOD.  
JULY  
20TH.

THAT MEANS  
THAT HE JOINED  
THEM SHORTLY  
AFTER STARTING  
SCHOOL. WITHIN  
A YEAR, HE  
WAS ALREADY  
MAKING  
INVESTMENTS  
WITH THE  
CLERKS.

IT WAS THE  
36TH YEAR OF  
MEIJI WHEN A  
STUDENT  
PARTICIPATED  
IN THE  
SCHOOL'S  
INVEST-  
MENTS.

IT MATCHES  
THE RECORDS  
PERFECTLY...

THE RECORD  
OF THE  
INVESTMENT  
CLUB STARTS  
WITH THE  
BEGINNING OF  
THE RUSSO-  
JAPANESE WAR,  
THE 37TH YEAR  
OF THE MEIJI  
PERIOD.



THIS MAN WAS SCOUTED BY THE CLERKS, WHICH MEANS HE MUST HAVE HAD AN IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORD IN INVESTING.



OH, YES,  
THE FIRST  
SINO-JAPANESE  
WAR.

LET'S SEE...  
BEFORE  
THE RUSSO-  
JAPANESE  
WAR WOULD  
BE...



JAPAN  
AND CHINA  
STARTED  
THE WAR  
IN THE  
27TH  
YEAR OF  
MEIJI.

THEN JAPAN  
WAS PAID  
TRIPLE THE  
NATIONAL  
REVENUE FOR  
REPARATIONS,  
AND THE  
ECONOMY  
REVIVED.

THEY WON  
THE WAR BY  
WAR FUNDS  
WHICH WERE  
DOUBLE THE  
AMOUNT OF  
NATIONAL  
REVENUE.





PEOPLE FLOODED THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE, AND EVEN PENNY STOCK COMPANIES WERE AT A PREMIUM.

BECAUSE OF THE THRIVING ECONOMY, THERE WERE VENTURE BOOMS AND STOCK INVESTMENT BOOMS, AT THE SAME TIME!



YAWATA STEEL WORKS AND KYOTO UNIVERSITY WERE BUILT USING THE REPARATIONS FUND FROM THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR.

THERE WERE 2,800 COMPANIES AT THE TIME THE WAR BROKE OUT; IN A MATTER OF TWO YEARS, IT DOUBLED TO 5,900 COMPANIES, WHICH SPEAKS TO THE AMAZING ECONOMIC BOOM AT THE TIME.



A LONG ECONOMIC CRISIS CONTINUED, UNTIL THE OUTBREAK OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

HOWEVER, SITUATIONS LIKE THAT DON'T LAST TOO LONG... SUBSEQUENTLY THERE WERE TWO RECESSIONS, AND THEN THE ECONOMY PLUNGED INTO DEPRESSION.



HOW AMAZING  
CAN THIS  
PERSON  
GET?

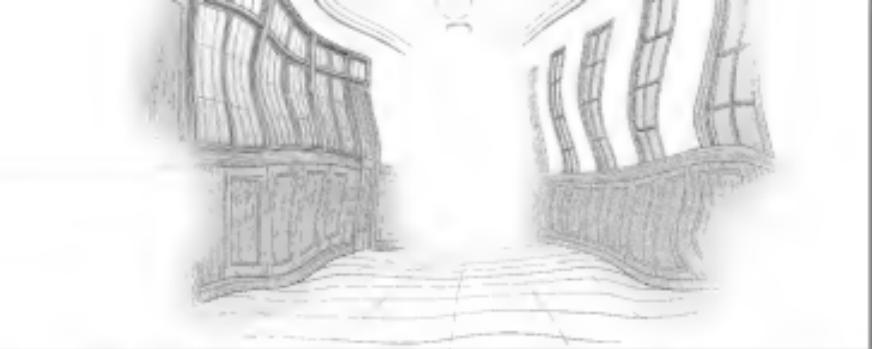


HE  
SUCCEEDED  
IN  
INVESTING  
DESPITE AN  
ECONOMIC  
CRISIS?!

WHICH  
MEANS...









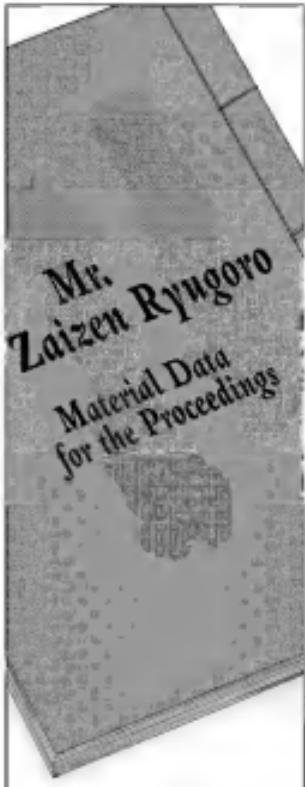


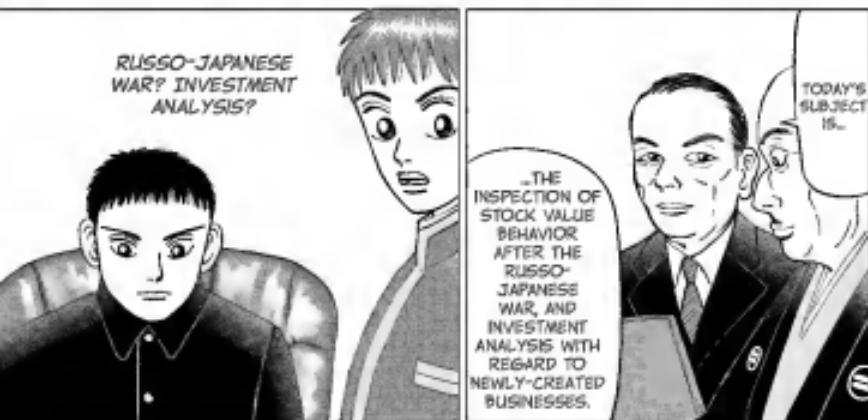
AND  
THIS PLACE  
LOOKS LIKE  
THE DOJIKU  
DORM.

ZI...  
ZAIKEN?  
THIS GUY'S  
CALLED  
ZAIKEN?













WE COULD PROBABLY ACQUIRE ABOUT 100 SHARES OR SO.

I HEAR THE COMPETITION IS UP PAST 1,000.

HOW MANY DO YOU THINK WE COULD ACQUIRE?

NOT TO MENTION, THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAS GOTTEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INVESTMENTS LATELY.

THE MARKET VALUE WILL JUST KEEP RISING; THE SOUTH MANCHURIA RAILWAY COMPANY WILL HAVE NO CEILING.

THE PLUTO-CRATS ARE LOOKING TO BUY MASSIVE QUANTITIES.

"...CATS, AND EVEN WOODEN LAPLES ARE STAINED BY THE STOCK MARKET!"

I SAW AN ARTICLE IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT SAID THIS:

"POLITICIANS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SCHOLARS, MONKS..."

AFTER ALL, THEY COULD TURN 1 YEN INTO 2 YEN IN A MATTER OF TEN DAYS.

THESE DAYS, IF ANYONE HAS CAPITAL TO INVEST, THEY WANT TO DABBLE IN THE MARKET.

UNTIL THE WAR WITH CHINA, ONLY NOBILITY AND LANDLORDS COULD AFFORD STOCKS. BUT RECENTLY, THE PUBLIC'S QUALITY OF LIFE HAS REALLY IMPROVED.

THIS IS ALL THANKS TO THE GREAT VICTORY IN THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR. THANKS TO COUNT NOSI AND MARSHAL-ADMIRAL TOGO.

PURCHASING INVITES MORE PURCHASING, AND MARKET VALUES GO UP.

IT IS TREATED LIKE A FIRST CLASS NATION, UNIQUE IN ALL OF ASIA. THIS GIVES US NEGOTIATION POWER, BUSINESS OVERSEAS WILL BECOME EASIER, AND FOREIGN TRADE WILL ALSO INCREASE.

JAPAN DEFEATED THE GREAT NATION OF RUSSIA, SO JAPAN IS NOW EVALUATED HIGHLY BY OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS.





YOU'RE ALL LAUGHING YOUR HEADS OFF, ROLLING AROUND LAUGHING.

YOU'RE SEEING BUBBLES RISE TO THE SURFACE OF THE WATER, AND SHRIEKING THAT A KAPPA JUST FARTED.

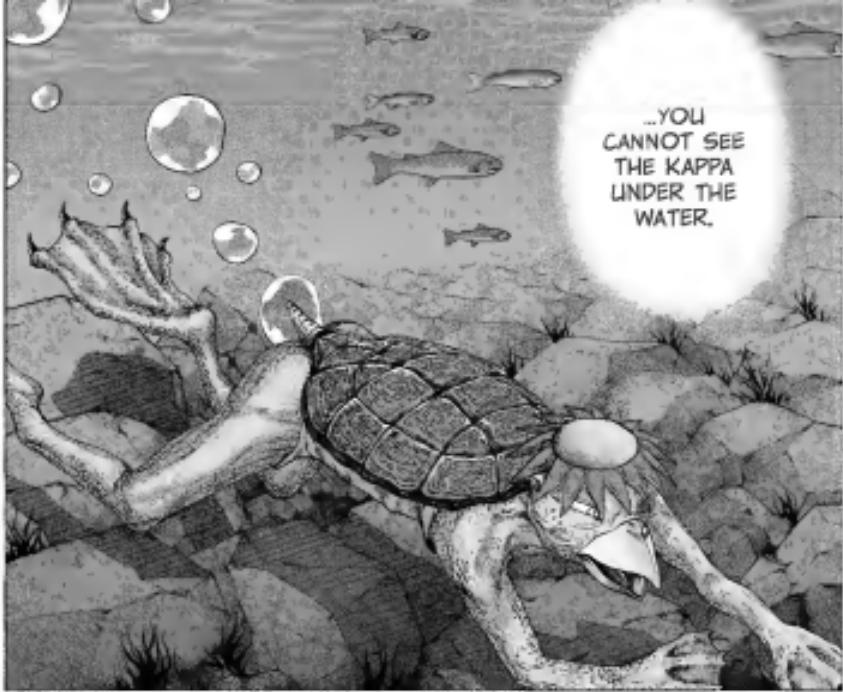
IT'S LIKE I JUST SAID.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

BUT...

YOU'RE ALL LOOKING AT THE BUBBLES.

WH- WHAT?



...WHAT  
ARE THE  
CALCULATIONS  
INVOLVED WITH  
RESPECT TO  
THE WAR?

BUT...

SURE.

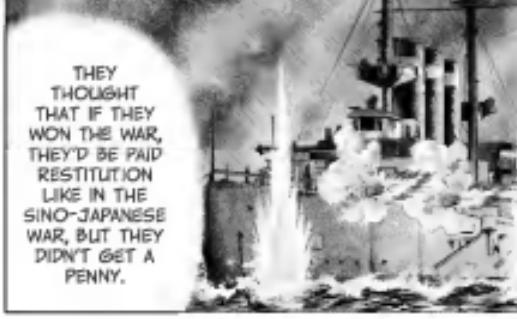
ACCORDING  
TO THE  
TOYO KEIZAI  
SHINPO  
MAGAZINE...

IT'S  
ONLY  
NATURAL  
TO FEEL  
ELATED  
ABOUT  
THE WAR  
BEING  
WON.

RUSSO-  
JAPANESE  
WAR  
1 BILLION,  
720 MILLION  
YEN

80% OF IT IS  
COVERED BY  
GOVERNMENT  
BONDS; IN  
OTHER WORDS,  
OUR COUNTRY  
HAS PURCHASED  
VICTORY BY  
MEANS OF  
AN ENORMOUS  
LOAN.

...WAR  
EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE  
RUSSO-  
JAPANESE  
WAR WERE 1  
BILLION 720  
MILLION YEN;  
THAT IS EIGHT  
TIMES THE  
TOTAL OF  
THE SINO-  
JAPANESE  
WAR.



THEY  
THOUGHT  
THAT IF THEY  
WON THE WAR,  
THEY'D BE PAID  
RESTITUTION  
LIKE IN THE  
SINO-JAPANESE  
WAR, BUT THEY  
DIDN'T GET A  
PENNY.

THERE WAS  
AN ENORMOUS  
ISSUING OF  
GOVERNMENT  
BONDS IN FOREIGN  
CURRENCY, SO THE  
RUSSO-JAPANESE  
WAR MIGHT AS  
WELL HAVE BEEN  
WON BY FOREIGN  
CURRENCY.



IT'S AN  
ASTONISHINGLY  
COLOSSAL  
DEBT THE  
COUNTRY  
IS IN.

GREAT  
SACRIFICES  
WERE MADE,  
AND WHAT  
THEY  
ACQUIRED  
WERE TWO  
RAILS IN  
MANCHURIA.



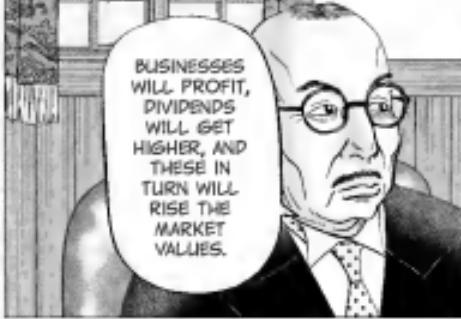
BUT  
WHAT  
MATTERS  
IS THE  
FACT  
THAT WE  
WON.

WE DON'T  
NEED YOU  
TO TELL US  
THAT. WE  
KNOW THAT  
ALREADY.



THERE IS A  
HUGE INFUX OF  
CASH TO THE  
METROPOLITAN  
AREAS NOW,  
THANKS TO  
A GREAT  
LOOSENING OF  
CASH FLOW.

BECAUSE  
WE WON THE  
WAR, JAPAN'S  
TRUSTWORTHINESS  
HAS GAINED  
FOOTING; FOREIGN  
NATIONS WILL  
BE WILLING  
TO MAKE  
INVESTMENTS  
NOW.



BUSINESSES  
WILL PROFIT,  
DIVIDENDS  
WILL GET  
HIGHER, AND  
THESE IN  
TURN WILL  
RISE THE  
MARKET  
VALUES.



IF  
STOCKS  
GO UP,  
MONEY  
MOVES.

THAT  
GIVES  
RISE TO  
RISING  
STOCK  
VALUES.



THE  
ECONOMY  
WILL GROW,  
AND JAPAN  
WILL BECOME A  
PROSPEROUS  
NATION...



THAT'S HOW  
FAVORABLE  
CYCLES ARE  
BORN.



THAT KAPPA  
THING HE  
SAID, STRIKE  
IT FROM THE  
MINUTES  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS.

S-  
SURE.



DEBTS  
CAN BE  
PAID BACK  
AFTER THAT  
HAPPENS.

"BUY."  
WOULD  
YOU  
AGREE?

SO, WHAT  
IS OUR  
DECISION?

"BUY"  
IT IS...

NO  
OBJECTION.

IT  
SHOULD  
BE  
"SELL."

I  
DISAGREE.

...THEY  
WILL TAKE  
A HUGE  
PLUNGE.

SCREECH

+

—

—

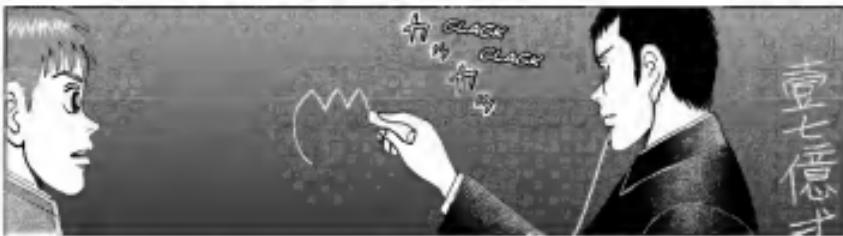
YOU'RE  
GOING  
OVER-  
BOARD.

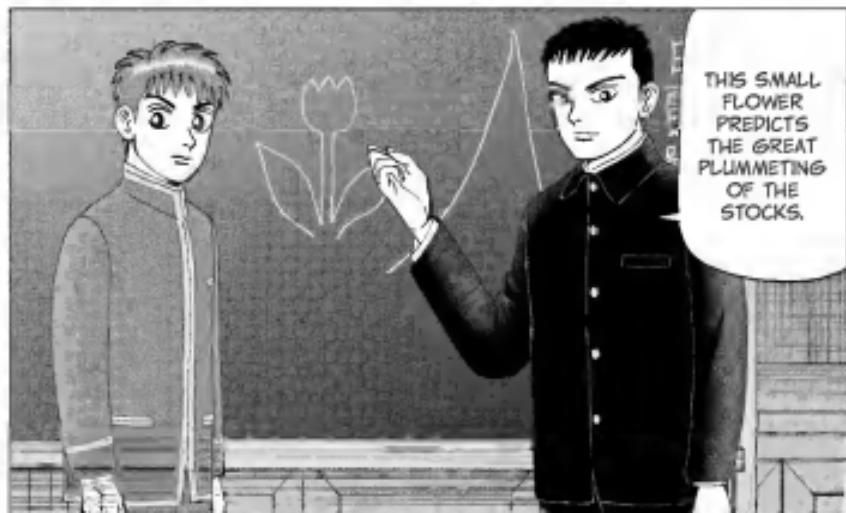
ZAIZEN-  
KUN.



BUT  
AROUND  
THE NEW  
YEAR...

STOCK  
VALUES  
WILL MOST  
LIKELY RISE  
TOWARD  
THE END  
OF THE  
YEAR.





WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TULIPS AND STOCKS?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

...THERE WAS EXTRAORDINARY SPECULATION OVER TULIP BULBS.

ABOUT 170 YEARS AGO, IN THE NETHERLANDS...

...CAME TO HAVE A PRICE EQUIVALENT TO THE TOTAL PRICE FOR A NEW CARRIAGE, GREY HORSE, AND SADDLE.

A SINGLE BULB OF ONLY A FEW CENTIMETERS IN SIZE...

WOW...  
THEY JUST  
HEARD  
ABOUT IT  
FOR THE  
FIRST  
TIME...



...OF  
COURSE  
YOU  
ARE ALL  
FAMILIAR  
WITH  
THIS.

BUT  
THEN...



YOU  
DON'T  
NEED  
TO TELL US. OF  
COURSE  
WE  
KNOW.

OF... OF  
COURSE.

THERE  
IS ONLY ONE  
REASON: THE  
POPULARIZATION  
OF  
INVESTMENTS.



WHY THEN  
DID THE  
VALUE OF  
THE TULIP  
SKYROCKET?

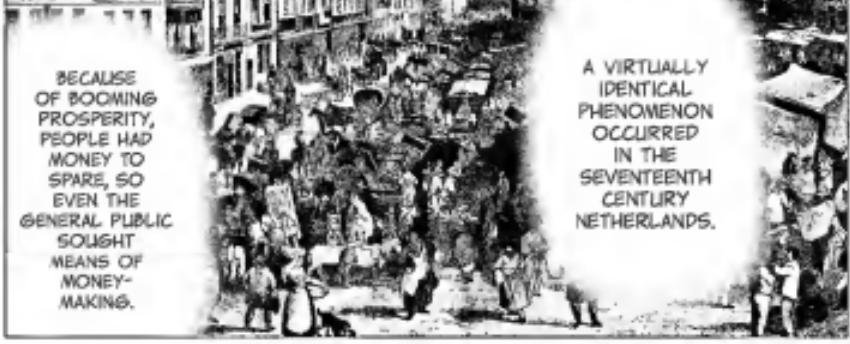
日露戰爭  
壹億萬圓



YOU WERE  
LAUGHING A  
LITTLE WHILE  
AGO ABOUT  
CATS AND  
WOODEN  
LADIES BEING  
STAINED BY  
THE STOCK  
MARKET.



HUH...



BECAUSE OF BOOMING PROSPERITY, PEOPLE HAD MONEY TO SPARE, SO EVEN THE GENERAL PUBLIC SOUGHT MEANS OF MONEY-MAKING.

A VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL PHENOMENON OCCURRED IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NETHERLANDS.





HE USED  
THE WORD  
"BUBBLE"  
OVER 100  
YEARS  
AGO!?

B-BUBBLE?

RYUSORO'S  
AMAZING!

HE SAID HE  
CALLS IT THAT  
"PERSONALLY."  
DOES THAT  
MEAN HE CAME  
UP WITH THE  
PREDICTION?

AND ALL OF  
YOU RECALL  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TEN YEARS AGO,  
AFTER THE  
SINO-JAPANESE  
WAR: HIGH  
SWELLING OF  
STOCK VALUE,  
THEN ITS  
SUDDEN  
PLUNGE.

THIS DIDN'T  
HAPPEN ONLY  
WITH THE TULIP  
IN 1637  
NETHERLANDS;  
THE SAME  
BUBBLE BURST  
IN ENGLAND AND  
FRANCE AT THE  
SAME TIME,  
AND STOCKS  
CRASHED.





WE'RE EXPANDING OUTSIDE OF DOMESTIC MARKETS AND INTO ASIA, SO THE ECONOMY WILL GROW EVEN FURTHER.

WE DEFEATED THE GREAT NATION OF RUSSIA, AND JAPAN IS DEVELOPING LIKE CRAZY.



WE CAN'T RELY ON YOUR TULIP DRAWING AND GRAPH.

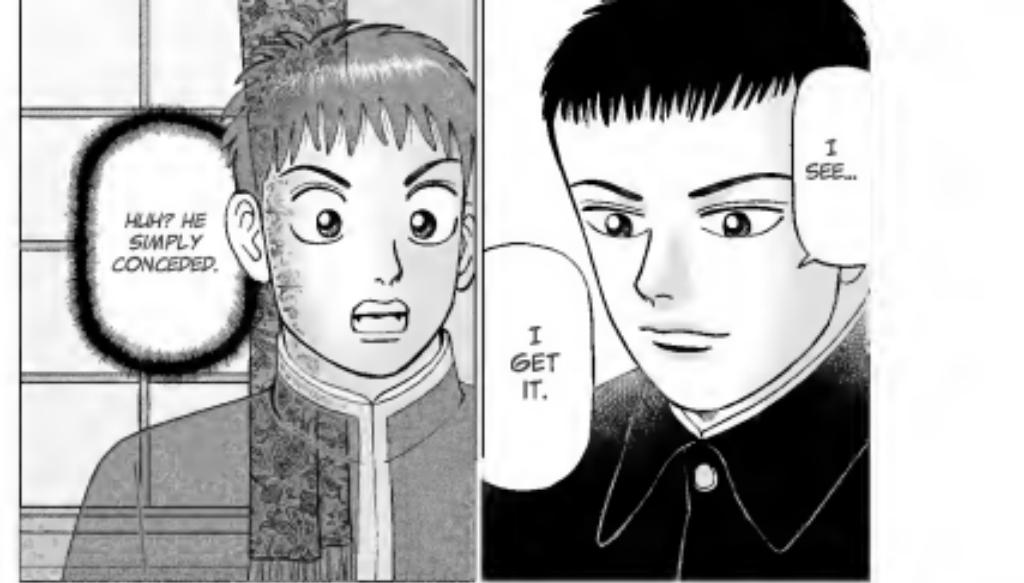
THERE'S NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO SELL, CONSIDERING THE OPPORTUNITY.



THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S TIME TO ATTACK!



ANYWAY, NOW'S THE TIME TO BUY, BUY!



HUH? HE  
SIMPLY  
CONCEDED.

I  
SEE...

I  
GET  
IT.



IN  
THAT CASE,  
FOLLOWING  
EVERYONE'S  
OPINION, I  
CONCEDE TO  
BUYING.



YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
LISTENED  
AND  
AGREED IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE.

INDEED.  
YOU  
WASTED  
OUR  
PRECIOUS  
TIME.



-TOKYO'S  
FUJITA  
COMMERCE  
OFFICE TO  
"SELL."

I WILL  
INFORM...

SELL?

WHAT?

THEN HIS  
CONSENT  
JUST NOW  
WAS A  
TOTAL  
LIE?

I  
KNOW THIS  
HAPPENS  
EVERY TIME,  
BUT THANK  
YOU  
FOR YOUR  
HELP.

IF THE  
RESULTS ARE  
FAVORABLE,  
THE  
EXECUTIVES  
OF THE MAIN  
BRANCH WILL  
PRETEND NOT  
TO KNOW,  
AND TAKE  
FULL  
CREDIT.

IT'S EASY  
TO REWRITE  
THE MINUTES  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS.

THESE  
INVESTMENT  
PROCEEDINGS  
I HAVE TO  
ATTEND WITH  
THE CLERKS...  
IS THERE ANY  
REASON FOR  
ME TO GO?

HONMA-  
SAN...

WELL...

...AM I  
NOT THE  
ONLY ONE  
NECESSARY?

IN OTHER  
WORDS...

WHAT'S  
THAT?

COULD  
YOU  
PROPOSE  
AN IDEA  
TO LORD  
KANESHICHI  
FOR ME?

INDEED,  
YOU ARE.  
EVERYTHING  
IS BEING  
DECIDED  
ON YOUR  
JUDGMENTS  
ALONE,  
ZAIZEN-SAN.



...WE CAN JUST BE A SECRET ORGANIZATION, SEPARATE FROM THE OLD MEN.

IN THE CASE...

THAT MIGHT BE TOO MUCH, EVEN FOR THE TYCOON LORD KANE-SHIKI.

HOWEVER, HE MIGHT HAVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT HIS INVESTMENTS BEING DONE BY STUDENTS ONLY.

...IT TOOK ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS FOR THE GEOCENTRIC SYSTEM TO GET OVERTURNED BY THE HELIOCENTRIC SYSTEM.

IT'S TRUE...

...WAS NOT BECAUSE CONVINCING ARGUMENTS WERE MADE ABOUT HELIOCENTRICITY OVER GEOCENTRICITY.

THE REASON WHY THE CHANGE WAS MADE...

THE GEO-CENTRIC TO THE HELIO-CENTRIC?



...AND  
THERE  
WERE NO  
MORE LEFT  
IN THE  
WORLD.

IT WAS  
BECAUSE  
THE  
BELIEVERS  
OF GEO-  
CENTRISM  
ALL DIED  
OUT...







THAT IS  
BECAUSE I  
CANNOT  
ERASE A  
DOUBT  
I HAVE  
REGARDING  
THE  
PURPOSE OF  
MAKING  
INVEST-  
MENTS.



BY THE  
WAY,  
ZAIZEN...

I HAVE  
EXPLAINED  
THE BASICS  
TO HARA-KUN,  
BUT HE STILL  
WILL NOT  
CONSENT TO  
JOIN THE  
CLUB.

MY FATHER  
TAUGHT ME  
THAT MONEY  
IS IMPURE, AND  
THAT WE  
MUSTN'T WANT  
OR SEEK  
IT FOR  
OURSELVES.



I WAS  
BORN TO A  
FAMILY OF  
NOBILITY.



...IS A  
VULGAR AND  
LOW-CLASS  
ACTIVITY,  
AND I FEEL  
RESISTANCE  
TO IT.



TO MAKE  
MONEY  
WITHOUT  
WORKING BY  
THE SWEAT  
OF YOUR  
BROW...



IT IS  
NOT  
OPEN  
AND  
ABOVE-  
BOARD.

YES.



INVESTING  
IS A VULGAR  
AND  
LOW-CLASS  
ACTIVITY?



I THINK...  
IT WAS  
MY  
GRAND-  
FATHER.



WHO  
TAUGHT  
YOUR  
FATHER  
THAT?



YOU SAID  
YOUR  
FATHER  
EDUCATED  
YOU THAT  
MONEY IS  
IMPURE.



HIS  
FATHER,  
PROBABLY.  
MY  
ANCESTOR.



WELL...



WHO  
TAUGHT  
HIM  
THAT?



HUH...?



WHO  
PLANTED  
THAT IDEA  
INTO YOUR  
ANCESTORS?



THE  
HONNOJI  
TEMPLE  
INCIDENT  
STARTED  
THAT  
WHOLE  
IDEA!

THE  
BELIEF  
THAT  
MONEY IS  
A DIRTY  
THING...

WHAT  
DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?

WHY THE  
HONNOJI  
INCIDENT?

YOU'RE  
FROM A  
SAMURAI CLAN.  
DO YOU KNOW  
HOW MUCH OF A  
STIPEND YOUR  
ANCESTORS  
WERE  
RECEIVING?

HARA-  
KUN...



WHY WERE  
SAMURAI ABLE  
TO GRIN AND  
BEAR THEIR  
POVERTY?

BUT THEY  
NONTHELESS  
ENDURED THE  
300 YEARS OF  
THE EDO  
PERIOD, AND  
MAINTAINED  
THEIR CLAN.



IF  
SOCIETY ON  
THE WHOLE IS  
IMPOVERISHED,  
THEN IT BECOMES  
AN ASSUMPTION  
NO ONE GRIPES  
ABOUT THEIR  
DISSATISFACTION.  
THEY JUST  
QUIETLY  
ENDURE.

IT WASN'T  
JUST THE  
SAMURAI  
AND  
TOWNSPEOPLE  
WERE ALL  
EQUALLY  
POOR



THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE EDO SHOGUNATE HIMSELF, TOKUGAWA IEYASU.

YOU SEE, THE STATE GOVERNORS FIGURED IT WOULD BE EASIER TO CONTROL THE PEOPLE IF THEY WERE POOR.



TOKUGAWA IEYASU MUST'VE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT ONCE HE SUCCEEDED IN UNIFYING THE NATION, IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE NATION TO BE POOR.

THE HONNOJI INCIDENT PROBABLY GAVE HIM THE IDEA.



...IEYASU HAD THE MOST FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE OF HIS LIFE

AT THAT TIME...

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HONNOJI INCIDENT?

...TOKUGAWA  
IEYASU WAS  
AT SAKAI

IN 1582,  
WHEN ODA  
NOBUHARU  
AND HIS  
SOLDIERS  
WERE DEFEATED  
BY 18,000  
TROOPS  
AT KYOTO'S  
HONNOJI.

EVEN THOUGH  
DANGEROUS  
TERRITORIES, HE  
RUSHED TOWARD  
MIKAWA.

WHEN HE HEARD  
OF NOBUHARU'S  
FALL, IEYASU  
IMMEDIATELY  
DECIDED TO  
RETURN TO  
HIS FIEF.

WHILE EN  
ROUTE, IEYASU  
MUST'VE BEEN  
THINKING  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS:

THIS WAS  
THE MOST  
DANGEROUS  
TIME FOR  
IEYASU, A  
TIME THEY  
CALL THE  
"ADVERSITIES  
OF THE  
DIVINE  
LORD."

"WILL WE BE  
ATTACKED BY  
BRIGANDS  
ON THE WAY,  
AND GET  
MURDERED?"

"I  
WONDER IF  
WE WILL  
BE ABLE  
TO REACH  
MIKAWA  
SAFELY?"

"WHY  
MUST THIS  
HAPPEN  
TO ME,  
ANYWAY?"

"NO... I  
DON'T WANT  
TO DIE LIKE  
THIS!"

"THAT  
MITSUHIDE!  
WHAT  
A MESS  
HE HAS  
MADE!"

"HE BETRAYED  
HIS LORD AND  
MASTER! IT IS  
UNCONSCIONABLE!"

"NO...  
WAIT..."



"THEY  
MUST BE  
PLOTTING TO  
DECAPITATE  
THEIR LORD  
WHENEVER  
THEY  
GET THE  
CHANCE."

"VASSALS  
CANNOT BE  
TRUSTED IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE."



"WHAT WILL  
MAKE THEM  
REMAIN LOYAL,  
AND FOLLOW  
ME TO THE  
VERY END?"

"HOW  
CAN I  
GET THEM  
TO NOT  
BETRAY  
ME?"



HOW WOULD  
HE FOUND A  
STABLE AND  
LONG-LASTING  
GOVERNMENT  
WHEN HE TOOK  
OVER THE  
NATION, WITHOUT  
GETTING  
BETRAYED?

IEYASU  
PESERETLY  
THOUGHT  
IT OUT,  
BATTING  
HIS FEAR  
OF DEATH.



AND THEN  
HE REACHED  
THE ULTIMATE  
CONCLUSION.  
HE FOUND HIS  
ANSWER.

WHAT WOULD  
MAKE THE  
PEOPLE LIVE  
QUIETLY  
WITHOUT  
REBELLING  
AGAINST  
AUTHORITY?

TO RULE  
AND CONTROL  
A NATION  
THAT WAS  
MODERATELY  
IMPOVERISHED.

IEYASU'S  
CONCLUSION  
WAS...



SO NOT THAT  
LEVEL OF POVERTY.  
BUT HE MUST'VE  
THOUGHT THAT IF  
SAMURAI AND  
TOWNSFOLK WERE  
NEVER SO POOR  
THEY COULDN'T  
EAT, BUT WERE  
MODERATELY POOR,  
THE NATION WOULD  
BE EASIER TO RULE.

THERE WOULD  
BE RIOTS IF THE  
PEOPLE WERE  
IMPOVERISHED  
TO THE POINT  
OF FAMINE.

IF  
THEY HAVE  
FINANCIAL  
POWER, THEY  
WILL ALWAYS  
TRY TO TOPILE  
AUTHORITY  
AND TAKE  
OVER.

AND WHY IS  
THAT? BECAUSE  
WHEN DAIMYO  
LORDS AND THE  
PUBLIC HAVE  
MONEY, THEY  
START GETTING  
OUTLANDISH  
IDEAS.





AS COMPENSATION, HE GAVE PRIDE TO THE SAMURAI, MAKING THEM THE HIGHEST SOCIAL STATUS.

IN ORDER TO AVOID THAT HAPPENING, ONLY THE BAKUFU SHOGUNATE GOVERNMENT WAS ALLOWED TO HAVE MONEY.

OUT OF THE FEUDAL CASTES OF FARMERS AND MERCHANTS, MERCHANTS WERE DEEMED THE LOWEST IN STATUS BECAUSE THEY WERE THE RICHEST, AND THEREFORE GREEDY AND SOILED BY MONEY. THIS PEOPLE BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF THEM.

HE PLANTED THE BELIEF IN FARMERS AND TOWNSFOLK THAT FRUGALITY WAS A VIRTUE.

BUT THOSE VALUES GOT PASSED DOWN FOR GENERATIONS. EVEN AFTER A NEW ERA DAWNS, EVEN AFTER CHANGES AND REFORMATIONS.

...AND EVEN IF THE TOWNSFOLK WERE POOR, THEY COULD BE CONTENT WITH THEIR UNEVENTFUL LIVES. AND THIS IS THE SECRET BEHIND HOW THE EDO BAKUFU SHOGUNATE GOVERNMENT LASTED 300 YEARS.

SO THE SAMURAI LIVED ONLY FOR THEIR PRIDE.





I CANNOT  
AGREE  
WITH YOUR  
OPINION.



BUT  
THEY HAD  
ORDER.

INDEED,  
THE NATION  
WAS POOR.



THIS  
COULD NOT  
BE SAID OF  
THE SUPER-  
POWERS OF  
EUROPE AND  
AMERICA.

FOR 300  
YEARS, UNTIL  
THE MEIJI  
REFORMATION,  
THERE WAS  
NO MAJOR  
CIVIL UNREST  
AND NO CIVIL  
WAR.

ORDER...

THE SAMURAI OF THE 300 Fiefs OF THE EDO ERA DID NOT LOSE THEIR PRIDE. THEY LOYALLY SERVED THE SHOGUNATE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT WAS WHY THE NATION WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN PEACE.

AND THAT WAS DUE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER!



I BELIEVE THEY LIVED IN A SUFFICIENTLY PROSPEROUS NATION, IN AS MUCH AS THEY HAD A LAWFUL CIVIL LIFE AND HIGH CULTURE.

SO THEY WERE LACKING IN MATERIAL ABUNDANCE? I BELIEVE THEY HAD PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUNDANCE.





BUT THERE  
WERE NATURAL  
DISASTERS  
AND FAMINES.  
HUNDREDS OF  
THOUSANDS,  
EVEN MILLIONS  
OF PEOPLE,  
STARVED TO  
DEATH.

YOU  
SAID  
THERE  
WAS NO  
CIVIL  
WAR.



SO THEY HAD  
ORDER AND HIGH  
CULTURE, BUT  
THERE WERE  
MOUNTAINS OF  
PEOPLE WHO  
COULDN'T BE  
SAVED!

THE POPULATION  
OF CHILDREN  
GOT DECIMATED  
IN AGRARIAN  
VILLAGES ON A  
DAILY BASIS!  
DAUGHTERS  
WERE SOLD  
OFF WITHOUT  
HESITATION TO  
BROTHELS!



POVERTY IS  
THE ROOT OF  
ALL EVIL!  
POVERTY IS  
TANTAMOUNT  
TO MISERY!

A NATION  
LIKE THAT IS  
ABSOLUTELY  
NOT  
PROSPEROUS!

THERE IS  
NOTHING  
OTHER THAN  
MONEY THAT  
CAN SAVE  
PEOPLE AND  
BRING  
PROSPERITY!

HAPPINESS  
CAN ONLY BE  
HAD WITH  
MONEY!





I WILL  
ENDEAVOR  
TO DO  
MY BEST.



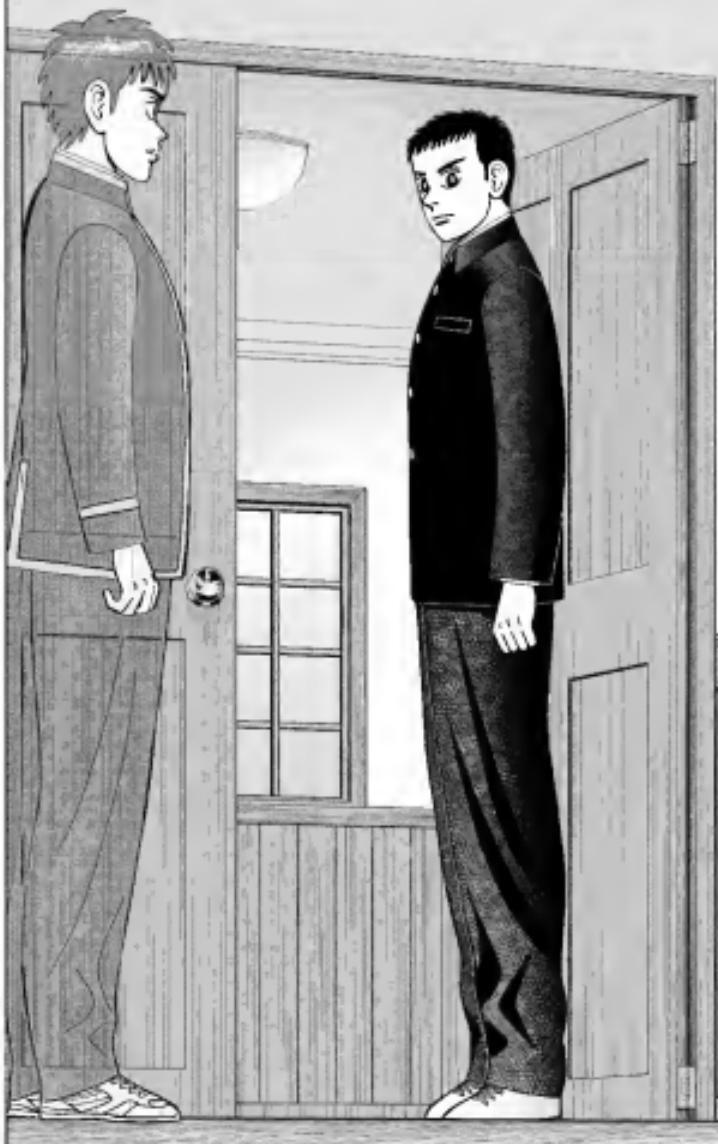
SO THIS  
IS HOW  
THE CLUB  
BEGINS...



IN THAT CASE,  
MEMBERSHIP  
WILL CONSIST  
OF YOU THREE:  
RYU, ONO-SAN,  
AND HARA-SAN.











WHY  
DID YOU  
MENTION  
RYUGORO  
JUST  
NOW?

ZAIEN-  
KUN!



RYUGORO?

I SAID  
THAT?

EYE TO  
EYE?

YES.



YOU SAID  
YOU SAW  
RYUGORO,  
EYE TO  
EYE.





I HAD A DREAM ABOUT THE INVESTMENT MEETING AT THE TIME I WAS READING ABOUT...



I MUST'VE FALLEN ASLEEP WHILE READING THE RECORDS.



YES... AND I THINK HE...





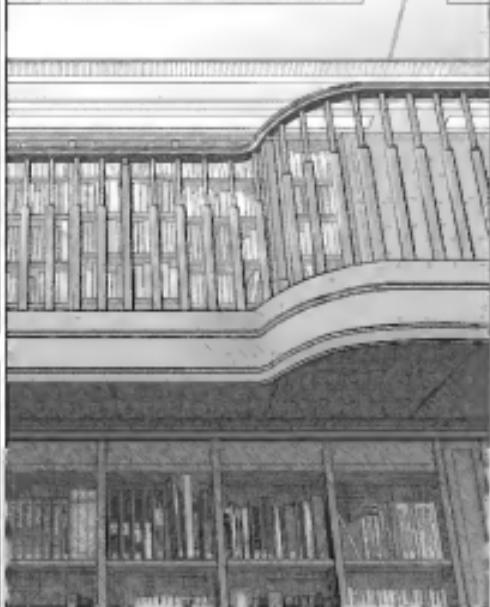
IT WAS  
JUST A  
DREAM,  
YET I  
REMEMBER  
IT SO  
VIVIDLY.

BUT IT'S  
STRANGE...

MAYBE  
I WAS  
AT THE  
INVESTMENT  
MEETING  
OF THE  
TIME.

MAYBE I  
MET ZAIZEN  
RYUBORO...

...AND I HAD  
A VISCERAL  
EXPERIENCE  
OF THE  
INTENSITY OF  
THAT TIME.



WE  
FINALLY  
GOT  
THERE.

I SEE...

ZAIZEN  
RYUGORO  
WAS ZAIZEN  
TAKASHI'S  
GREAT-  
GRANDFATHER.  
THERE IS NO  
MISTAKE.

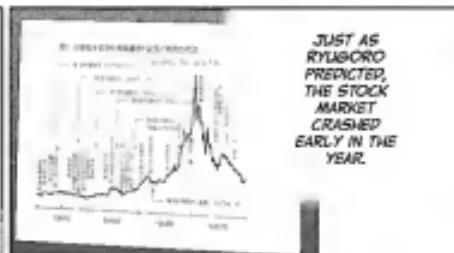
JUST  
AS HE  
SAID.

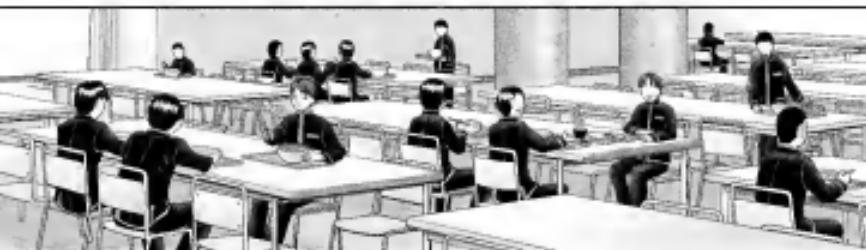
...AND THEN  
DEEPENS HIS  
AMBITIONS...  
THAT MONSTER  
WILL BE  
RESURRECTED  
IN OUR OWN  
TIME.

I  
THOUGHT  
SO...

IF ZAIZEN  
TAKASHI  
GETS  
INSPIRED  
BY HIS  
GREAT-  
GRAND-  
FATHER...

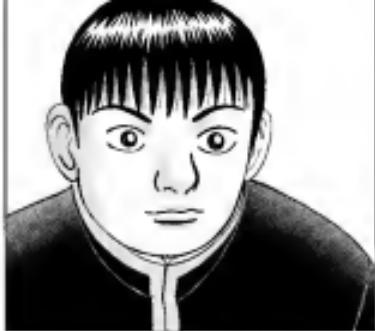
THE  
TWO OF  
THEM HAVE  
TRAVELED  
TIME AND  
BECOME  
CONNECTED.





INVESTMENT CLUB MEMBERS EAT LUNCH AT THE CAFETERIA SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH, SO AS NOT TO AROUSE SUSPICION.







THERE'S  
ABSOLUTELY  
NO HOPE OF  
REACHING  
FUTURE  
DREAMS  
AFTER YOU  
GRADUATE.

IT'S  
MEANINGLESS  
TO STUDY AT  
A JAPANESE  
UNIVERSITY.



JAPAN IS  
FINISHED.

JAPANESE  
BUSINESSES  
WON'T SURVIVE  
ANYWHERE; THE  
NATION'S POWER  
IS STEADILY  
DECLINING,  
AND  
WILL KEEP  
DECAYING  
WITH NO END  
IN SIGHT.



RIGHT,  
TOMINAGA?

YOU  
SHOULD RUSH  
TO ESCAPE THE  
SINKING SHIP  
AND TRY  
YOUR TALENTS  
OVERSEAS,  
FOR SURE.



I  
GUESS  
SO.

YEAH...









IN THE  
FUTURE THE  
SMART PHONE  
WILL MOST  
LIKELY  
EVOLVE, AND  
CURRENTLY  
UNIMAGINABLE  
NEW  
BUSINESSES  
WILL  
SPRING UP.



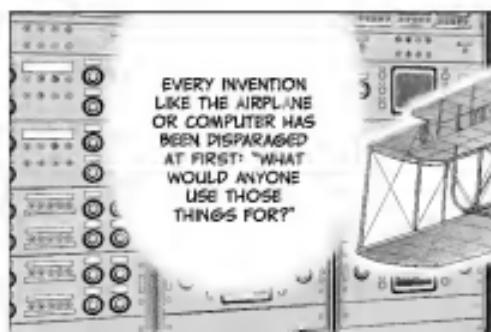
BECAUSE IT  
WAS CALLED  
"PHONE,"  
IT WAS  
ORIGINALLY  
CONSIDERED  
TO JUST BE A  
CONVENIENT  
WAY TO MAKE  
CALLS.

BUT  
NOW IT'S A  
SUPERIOR  
PORTABLE  
TOOL THAT  
APPLIES TO  
EVERYTHING  
IN LIFE.

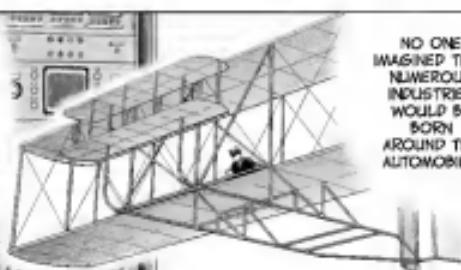


WHEN  
AUTOMOBILES  
WERE INVENTED,  
NO ONE  
THOUGHT  
HORSE-DRIVEN  
CARRIAGES  
WOULD  
BECOME  
OBSCURE.

THAT'S THE  
KIND OF  
PATH THAT  
HUMAN  
INVENTIONS  
TAKE.



EVERY INVENTION  
LIKE THE AIRPLANE  
OR COMPUTER HAS  
BEEN DISPARAGED  
AT FIRST: "WHAT  
WOULD ANYONE  
USE THOSE  
THINGS FOR?"



NO ONE  
IMAGINED THAT  
NUMEROUS  
INDUSTRIES  
WOULD BE  
BORN  
AROUND THE  
AUTOMOBILE.



A WORLD CURRENCY IS ABOUT TO BE BORN IN THE INTERNET, AND CONCEPTS REVOLVING AROUND MONEY AND NATIONS ARE IN FOR A HUGE CHANGE.

MAYBE A HUMAN ORGAN COULD BE GROWN FROM YOUR OWN CELL TISSUES.

AND IN THE MIDST OF THEIR VICISSITUDES, OPPORTUNITIES ARE BORN.

AGES MOVE DYNAMICALLY DUE TO TECHNOLOGY.

HOPES AND DREAMS CAN BE HAD AT ANY TIME.

NOW LEARN  
TO BE MORE  
RESPECTFUL  
TO YOUR  
SENPAIS.

I GUESS  
YOU'VE  
SAID  
ENOUGH.

I  
APOLOGIZE.

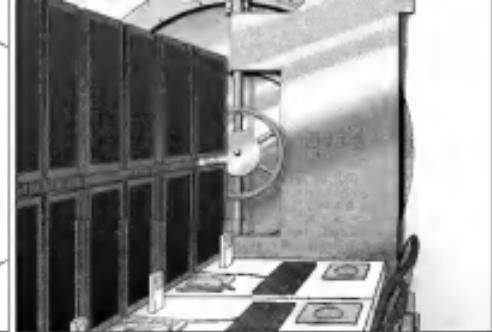
YES.

YEAH.

I'M DONE  
EATING,  
SO IF  
YOU'LL  
EXCUSE  
ME.

MUST'VE  
BEEN AN  
ARGUMENT.

WHAT  
WAS  
ALL  
THAT?





WE CAN YIELD HIGHER RESULTS IF WE DO IT ALL TOGETHER.

WE'RE NOT THE ONLY OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHERS.

AND MAYBE THEY'LL GROW TO BECOME OUTSTANDING INVESTORS IN THE FUTURE.

THEN EVENTUALLY THEIR INTEREST IN STOCKS AND INVESTMENTS WILL GROW.

THEN JAPAN CAN BECOME A TRUE "INVESTMENT NATION." THE ECONOMY WILL BE FILLED WITH ENERGY, AND WE CAN BECOME A WONDERFUL COUNTRY!

OUR ACTIVITY CAN BE SPREAD NATIONWIDE! INVESTMENT CLUBS CAN BE INSTALLED IN ALL THE SCHOOLS, AND THE EDUCATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.





IF MASSES  
OF PEOPLE  
INVEST  
TOGETHER...

GUARANTEED...  
TO FAIL?!

...THEY ARE  
GUARANTEED  
TO FAIL.